

James Dorais

Special Taxing District 'Thickets' Grow Denser

Californians, nearly 18 million of them, have grown too numerous to govern themselves by New England town meeting procedures. But the relative success or failure of local government still depends on the degree of interest the people themselves bring to bear on the various boards and councils that represent them.

The state's 58 counties are viable instruments of government because of the active interest voters take in the election of county supervisors. There is a high degree of interest, too, in the people who fill the chairs of California's 382 city councils.

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School districts too, command great public interest, and board member elections are often hotly contested. Even though many people feel the pace of school district consolidation is too slow—there still are 1575 school districts in the state—voters are loath to surrender local control. (During the first three months of this year,

only five of 29 school district unification proposals won voter approval at the polls, despite political pressures, including monetary incentives, to consolidate.)

But what of the multitude of "special" districts—the overlapping water districts, sewer districts, fire districts, road districts, recreation districts, mosquito abatement districts, etc.? Currently, there are 3,822 such districts in California. How many people know the names of the members of the governing boards of special districts in whose taxing jurisdictions they reside?

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Counting special districts, there are a total of 5,637 local taxing jurisdictions in the state. There are 18,759 separate tax code areas, some of the areas including as many as 16 taxing jurisdictions.

State Controller Alan Cranston recently pointed out that the taxpayer "would have to be a wizard to know exactly what districts he lives in, who the various district directors are, when the various board meetings are held, or what the various district services and budgets are."

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Without this knowledge, Cranston pointed out, the taxpayer "cannot measure the total impact on his taxes. He cannot examine and evaluate the total package of services and costs. He cannot make intelligent or effective protests. Nowhere are the facts centralized and available to him until it is too late—when he has his tax bill in hand."

How to straighten out the special district "tax thicket"? Controller Cranston urges support for a district reorganization bill, authored by Assemblyman John Knox, which would provide uniform procedures for special district annexations, consolidations and dissolutions.

Garden Checklist

1. Shrubs that have finished blooming need feeding now to develop strong new growth. Lawns should be fertilized now, and pay particular attention to chrysanthemums and fast-growing annuals and perennials.
2. A good pair of hedge shears can be the gardener's best friend. Even if you don't have a hedge, they're worth the investment for shearing back ground covers and perennial edgings after bloom. Use them on alyssum, ajuga, candytuft, chamomile, and snow-in-summer.
3. Geraniums are blooming in pots at the nursery, and this is an excellent time to add them to your collection.
4. If you're a hillside gardener, bind up soil on banks with the kind of ground covers that root as they spread. Small, well-rooted plants set out close together now will be well established and "holding their own" by the time fall rains come. Aaron's Beard, New Zealand Sheep Bur, vinca, ivy, and Dwarf Chapparral Broom are a few excellent ones, and your nurseryman can recommend many more.
5. Perennials that can go in now are pinks and carnations, penstemons, verbena, and fibrous begonias. This is the time for starting chrysanthemums, so check your nursery for varieties that will bloom from now 'til Christmas.

JERSEYS ON PARADE Region Jersey Show, Sept. 24 through Oct. 3. Top herds from all over the nation are expected to compete.



FRESH WESTERN VEGETABLES provide the making for colorful, flavor snacks. All of them can be used on the appetizer or relish tray, and most are suitable garnishes for salads as well as for meat, poultry and fish platters.



Vegetable Plate Is Handsome

Crisp fresh vegetable relishes will pep up appetites but not satisfy them so the meal they precede will be enjoyed to the utmost.

These fresh tidbits, too, are especially good with dunking mixtures. Serve the "dunk" in fresh tomato cups or bell pepper shells.

FRESH WESTERN APPETIZERS

Bell pepper sticks
Celery curls
Carrot curls
Broccoli and cauliflower buds
Carrot and turnip sticks in ripe olives
Red radishes
Stuffed carrot circles

STUFFED CARROT CIRCLES: Remove centers of large carrots with apple corer. Stuff with firm cheese spread. Chill and slice just before serving time.

Hot Pastry Crab Wedges Good Eating

"Simply elegant" is the description of Crab Swiss Pastry Wedges, and they are just as good in winter as in summer.

- CRAB SWISS PASTRY WEDGES**
- 1 7½-oz. can Deming's Alaska King Crab
 - 4 slices bacon
 - 1 cup half and half milk and cream
 - 1 tbs. sliced green onion
 - 2 tbs. snipped parsley
 - Dash Tabasco
 - ½ tsp. salt
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 cup grated Swiss Cheese
 - 1 tbs. flour
 - Unbaked 9-inch pastry shell

Drain and slice large pieces crab. Fry bacon crisp, drain and dice. Combine crab, bacon, half and half, onion, parsley, Tabasco and salt. Beat eggs well and add to crab mixture. Mix cheese with flour and sprinkle into pie shell. Gently pour in crab mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 degrees and bake 30 minutes longer. Cut into wedges and serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

Combine 1 cup mayonnaise and 1 cup whipped cream. Add ½ cup drained crushed pineapple. Serve over broccoli or asparagus.

BE GOURMET WITH FROZEN FOODS BOOKLET

Today's housewife has found that precooked frozen foods are good served "just as they are," but when a little imagination is used, a whole new variety of dishes is possible.

- BEEF BURGUNDY**
- 1 pkg. precooked sirloin tips with mushroom sauce
 - 2 tbs. butter
 - ½ onion, chopped
 - 4 to 5 small carrots, cut in strips
 - 1 small can mushrooms
 - 2 tbs. tomato sauce
 - ¼ cup burgundy wine

Defrost sirloin tips. Melt butter in heavy skillet. Sauté onion, carrots and mushrooms about 10 minutes. Add sirloin tips and tomato sauce, simmering 10 minutes. Add wine and heat. Serve on bed of white rice. Makes 4 servings.

This is one of 90 interesting recipes offered in a new free 32-page booklet available by writing Box LAS, Kold Kist, 5329 E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles 22.

New Recipe of Month Contest has \$20 Prize

A \$20 merchandise order from any market advertising in this paper awaits the lucky winner of Mary Wise's first Recipe of The Month contest.

With summer here, subject for the first month's contest is "My favorite Picnic Recipe." Is it a barbecue sauce? A dessert? A casserole?

Readers are invited to mail their favorite picnic recipes in to Mary Wise Recipe Contest, c/o this newspaper. Winner will be announced next month. Prize will be the \$20 order in merchandise.

All entries should be postmarked no later than July 10.



PAINTINGS AVAILABLE

FULL COLOR bullfighter paintings by famed Mexican artist Raul Basso are available now for only 25 cents and a neckband from a bottle of Lindy's Taco or Enchilada Sauce. Born in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, Raul made his debut as a bullfighter at age 19. He was presented three times in Plaza Mexico and fought in many plazas throughout Mexico. He retired from bullfighting two years ago to devote his time to painting, and today almost every bullfight poster, program or ticket printed in Mexico carries a full-color reproduction of a Basso oil.

MANUFACTURERS TESTED RECIPE

While Scotch is commonly thought of as an evening drink, House of Lords Scotch points out that their new "Scotch Cooler" is fine for patio entertainment.

- SCOTCH COOLER**
- 2 oz. House of Lords Scotch
 - 3 dashes Creme de Menthe
 - Carbonated water
 - Ice

Combine first two ingredients in glass, then add the carbonated water and ice.

QUICK! Convenient! GOOD!



Just heat and serve in a bowl, piping hot! Or serve over Kold Kist steaks, beef patties or wieners.

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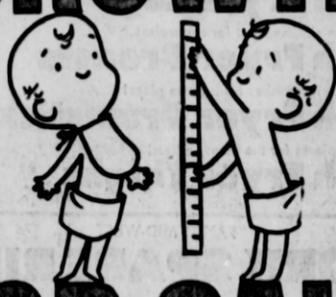
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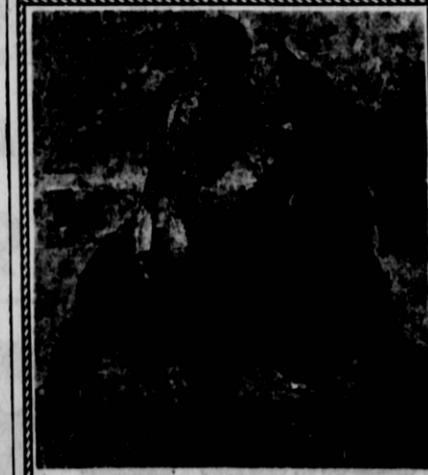
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